

### REMARKS

This supplemental amendment is submitted in response to an telephone interview with Examiner Thornton on April 19, 2004. Claims 1, 8, 10, 11, and 28 have been amended. Claim 33 has been added. No new subject matter has been added. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-28, and 30-33 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

### Examiner Interview

Examiner Thornton contacted Applicant's below signed representative on April 19, 2004 to discuss the status of the pending claims. The discussion was directed toward subject matter that the Examiner considered allowable, and claim amendments to place the application in condition for allowance. In particular, the Examiner indicated that claims 14-27 were allowed; and that claims 7, 8, 10, and 31 were objected-to. The Examiner indicated that the remaining claims (claims 1-6, 11-13, 28, 29 and 32) were still rejected in light of U.S. Patent 5,928,889. Without acquiescing to the rejection under U.S. Patent 5,928,889, Applicant has herein amended the claims to advance this case to allowance.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 7. Claims 8 and 10 have been amended to depend upon claim 1. Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 7. Claim 28 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of objected-to claim 31. New claim 33 incorporates the subject matter of objected-to claim 31 and base claim 1.

In light of the amendments incorporating allowable subject matter into each of the rejected independent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is thanked for her time and consideration of the present application; and is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone number if any future questions or concerns arise.

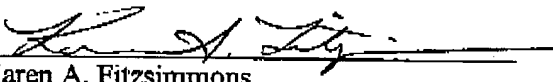
The Examiner is authorized to charge deposit account 13-2725 in the amount of \$86.00 for extra claim fees.



Date: April 19, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

  
Karen A. Fitzsimmons  
Reg. No. 50,470  
KAF:cjm